Amendments to the Specification:

1. Page 1, before line 8, but after the title, insert the following:

---BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention---;

2. Page 1, before line 11, insert the following:

---2. Discussion of Background Information---;

3. Page 2, after line 31, insert and center the following:

---SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION---;

4. Please replace the last paragraph at page 2 (lines 33-36), by the following new paragraphs:

---The present invention provides a first cosmetic or dermatological composition which comprises:

(I) up to 10 % by weight, based on a total weight of the composition, of one or more C_{12}-C_{40} fatty acids,

(II) from 0.1 % to 10 % by weight, based on a total weight of the composition, of one or more C_{12}-C_{40} fatty alcohols,

(III) from 0.01 % to 10 % by weight, based on a total weight of the composition, of at least one of an amphiphilic polymer, an associative polymer and a siloxane elastomer,

(IV) sodium hydroxide and/or potassium hydroxide,

(V) from 0.1 % to 10 % by weight, based on a total weight of the composition, of one or more C_{12}-C_{40} polyethoxylated fatty acid esters having a polyethoxy chain length of from 10 to 100,

(VI) optionally, at least one low molecular weight surfactant.

The present invention also provides a second cosmetic or dermatological composition which comprises:

(I) up to 12 % by weight, based on a total weight of the composition, of one or more C_{12}-C_{40} fatty acids,

(II) from 0 % to 3 % by weight, based on a total weight of the composition, of one or more C_{12}-C_{40} fatty alcohols,

(III) from 0.01 % to 10 % by weight, based on a total weight of the composition, of at least one of an amphiphilic polymer, an associative polymer and a siloxane elastomer, and

(IV) sodium hydroxide and/or potassium hydroxide.

In one aspect of the above compositions, component (I) may comprise stearic acid and/or palmitic acid, and/or component (II) may comprise one or more of myristyl alcohol, cetyl alcohol, behenyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol and cetearyl alcohol, and/or component (III) may comprise one or more of dimethicone/vinyl dimethicone crosspolymer, polysilicone–11, acrylate/C_{10-30} alkyl acrylate crosspolymer, acrylate/vinyl isodecanoate crosspolymer, acrylate/steareth–20 methacrylate copolymer, acrylate/steareth–20 itaconate copolymer, acrylate/steareth-50 acrylate copolymer, acrylate/palmeth-25 acrylate copolymer, steareth-10 allyl

ether/acrylate copolymer, PEG-120 methylglucose dioleate, PEG-60 sorbitan tetraoleate, PEG-150 pentaerythrityl tetrastearate, PEG-55 propylene glycol oleate, PEG-150 distearate and PEG-180/laureth-50 TMMG copolymer, and/or component (IV) may comprise sodium hydroxide.

In another aspect of the first composition, component (V) may comprise PEG-30 stearate, PEG-40 stearate and/or PEG-100 stearate.

In yet another aspect of the first composition, component (VI) may comprise steareth-2, laureth-4 and/or ceteth-3, preferably at least laureth-4.

In a still further aspect of the first composition, the ratio (I) : (II) : (V) may be from 5 : 1 : 1 to 1 : 1 : 5, e.g., from 3 : 1 : 1 to 3 : 1 : 3, or from 3 : 1 : 1 to 1 : 1 : 3.

In yet another aspect of the above compositions, component (I) may be present in an amount of from 0.1 % to 10 % by weight and/or component (II) may be present in an amount of from 0.1 % to 5 % by weight, e.g., in an amount of up to 3 % by weight.

In another aspect of the first composition, component (V) may be present in an amount of up to 5 % by weight.

In a still further aspect of the first and second compositions of the present invention, these

compositions may comprise from 0.01 % to 5 % by weight of an amphiphilic polymer and/or an associative polymer, for example, 0.1 % to 1 % by weight thereof. Alternatively or cumulatively, these compositions may comprise at least 0.5 % by weight of a siloxane elastomer.

In another aspect of the first composition, the composition may comprise:

(I) up to 10 % by weight of stearic acid and/or palmitic acid,

(II) from 0.1 % to 10 % by weight of one or more of cetyl alcohol, behenyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol and cetearyl alcohol,

(III) from 0.01 % to 10 % by weight of one or more of dimethicone/vinyl dimethicone crosspolymer, polysilicone-11, acrylate/alkyl acrylate crosspolymer, acrylate/vinyl isodecanoate crosspolymer, acrylate/steareth–20 methacrylate copolymer, acrylate/steareth–20 itaconate copolymer, acrylate/steareth-50 acrylate copolymer, acrylate/palmeth-25 acrylate copolymer, steareth-10 allyl ether/acrylate copolymer, PEG-120 methylglucose dioleate, PEG-60 sorbitan tetraoleate, PEG-150 pentaerythrityl tetrastearate, PEG-55 propylene glycol oleate, PEG-150 distearate and PEG-180/laureth-50/TMMG copolymer,

(IV) from 0.15 % to 1 % by weight of sodium hydroxide,

(V) up to 10 % by weight of one or more of PEG-20 stearate, PEG-40 stearate and PEG-100 stearate, and

(VI) from 0 % to 10 % by weight of one or more of steareth-2, laureth-4 and ceteth-3.

In another aspect of the second composition, the composition may comprise:

(I) up to 12 % by weight of stearic acid and/or palmitic acid,

(II) from 0 % to 3 % by weight of one or more of cetyl alcohol, behenyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol and cetearyl alcohol,

(III) from 0.01 % to 10 % by weight of one or more of dimethicone/vinyl dimethicone crosspolymer, polysilicone-11, acrylate/alkyl acrylate crosspolymer, acrylate/vinyl isodecanoate crosspolymer, acrylate/steareth–20 methacrylate copolymer, acrylate/steareth–20 itaconate copolymer, acrylate/steareth-50 acrylate copolymer, acrylate/palmeth-25 acrylate copolymer, steareth-10 allyl ether/acrylate copolymer, PEG-120 methylglucose dioleate, PEG-60 sorbitan tetraoleate, PEG-150 pentaerythrityl tetrastearate, PEG-55 propylene glycol oleate, PEG-150 distearate and PEG-180/laureth-50/TMMG copolymer, and

(IV) 0.25 % to 1 % by weight of sodium hydroxide.

In yet another aspect of the present compositions, the compositions may comprise sodium hydroxide as the only neutralizing agent.

In a still further aspect of the present compositions, not more than 9 % of the one or more fatty acids may be saponified.

In another aspect, the present compositions may further comprise up to 30 % by weight of a non-polar lipid having a polarity of at least 30 mN/m, a mineral oil, a silicone oil and/or a wax. The non-

polar lipid and the wax may be selected from non-polar hydrocarbons, hydrogenated polyisobutene, squalane, cyclomethicones, dimethicones, methyl palmitate and dimethiconol stearate. Still further, the lipid phase of the composition may comprise up to 60 % by weight, based on the total weight of the lipid phase, of one or more polar lipids having a polarity of at most 30 mN/m.

In yet another aspect, the compositions of the present invention may further comprise a solubilizer, e.g., PEG-40 hydrogenated castor oil, and/or the compositions may further comprise a photoprotective filter, a moisturizer, an active ingredient, a powder raw material, a preservative, a filler and/or a deodorant.

In a still further aspect, the compositions may further comprise ethanol in an amount of up to 30 % by weight.

The present invention also provides a decorative cosmetic product, a skin care product, a photoprotective product, and a cleansing emulsion, all of which comprise one of the compositions of the present invention.---;

5. Please replace the paragraph from page 14, line 26, to page 15, line 3 by the following amended paragraph:

Preparations of the following formulations have likewise proven to be advantageous

(I) up to 12% by weight of stearic acid/palmitic acid,

(II) 0 – 3% by weight of cetyl alcohol, behenyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol and/or cetearyl alcohol

(III) 0.01 – 10% by weight of dimethicone/vinyl dimethicone crosspolymer, polysilicone-11, acrylate/alkyl acrylate crosspolymer, acrylate/vinyl isodecanoate crosspolymer, acrylate/steareth–20 methacrylate copolymer, acrylate/steareth–20 itaconate copolymer, acrylate/steareth-50 acrylate copolymer, acrylate/palmeth-25 acrylate copolymer, steareth-10 ~~ally~~ allyl ether/acrylate copolymer, PEG-120 methylglucose dioleate, PEG-60 sorbitan tetraoleate, PEG-150 pentaerythrityl ~~tetrastearte~~ tetrastearate, PEG-55 propylene glycol oleate, PEG-150 distearate and/or PEG-180/laureth-50/TMMG copolymer,

(IV) 0.25 – 1% by weight of sodium hydroxide solution.

6. Please replace the paragraph from page 37, line 25 to page 38, line 4 by the following amended paragraph:

Advantageous preservatives in the sense of the present invention are, for example, formaldehyde donors (such as, for example, DMDM hydantoin, which is available, for example, under the trade name Glydant™ from Lonza), ~~iodopropyl~~ iodopropynyl butylcarbamates (e.g. those available under the trade names Glycacil-L, Glycacil-S from Lonza and/or Dekaben LMB from Jan Dekker), parabens (i.e. alkyl p-hydroxybenzoates, such as methyl-, ethyl-, propyl- and/or butylparaben), phenoxyethanol, ethanol, benzoic acid and the like. Usually, the preservative system according to the

invention further advantageously also comprises preservative assistants, such as, for example, octoxyglycerol, glycine soya, etc. This list of advantageous preservatives should in no way be limiting. Instead, all preservatives approved for cosmetics or foods are advantageous in the sense of the present invention.

7. Please replace the paragraph from page 39, line 28 to page 40, line 4 by the following amended paragraph:

It is in some cases possible and advantageous to use the preparations according to the invention as bases for pharmaceutical formulations. Corresponding requirements apply mutatis mutandis to the formulation of medicinal preparations. The transitions between pure cosmetics and pure pharmaceuticals are fluid here. Suitable pharmaceutical active ingredients according to the invention are in principle all classes of active ingredients, preference being given to lipophilic active ingredients. Examples are: antihistamines, antiphlogistics, antibiotics, antimycotics, active ingredients which promote circulation, keratolytics, ~~antihistamines, antiphlogistics, antibiotics, antimycotics, active ingredients which promote circulation, keratolytics, hormones, steroids, vitamins~~, hormones, steroids, vitamins, etc.

8. Page 41, after line 2, insert and center the following:

---DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION---;

9. Page 48, first line, please change "**Patent claims**" to ---WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:---.